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## MINOR NOTICES

**Gulf biologic station.**—This station was established in 1903 by the state of Louisiana at the mouth of the Cameron River. The region is about at sea-level and practically treeless, the station itself being on a ridge running parallel to the sea and traversing a salt marsh. The plants of this very interesting locality have been published in a catalogue prepared by R. S. COCKS.<sup>4</sup> In addition to the list of species of the immediate vicinity, there are notes on certain species of the prairie region of southwestern Louisiana.—J. M. C.

**Das Pflanzenreich.**<sup>5</sup>—Part 29 contains the Erythroxylaceae by O. E. SCHULZ. After the usual preliminary account of literature, general characters, anatomy, geographical distribution, etc., the synopsis of the family is presented. Besides the monotypic genus *Aneulophus*, the family contains only the large genus *Erythroxylum*, which is credited with 193 species, 41 of which are described as new. The author breaks up the genus into 19 sections, to each of which a name is given.—J. M. C.

**Key to trees and shrubs.**—COULTER and DORNER<sup>6</sup> have published a convenient untechnical key to the genera of trees and shrubs of Indiana and the neighboring states, based chiefly upon leaf characters. A previous edition, now exhausted, was restricted to the forest trees, but the value of the present edition is much increased by including the shrubs.—J. M. C.

## NOTES FOR STUDENTS

**Mendelian inheritance.**—DAVENPORT<sup>7</sup> in a lecture before the Washington Academy of Sciences discussed Mendelian inheritance in the light of his studies on poultry. After saying that "expectation has been so often realized that MENDEL's law has gained deserved fame as the most important law of inheritance yet enunciated," he proceeds to give a few non-conformable cases, and concludes that there must be some more inclusive law. This he calls the "law of potency," the gist of which may be given in his own words thus: "Between the two extremes of equipotency and allelopotency lies the great mass of heritable characteristics which when opposed in heredity exhibit varying degrees of potency." It is not clear why this should be called a law; it seems rather to be a denial that any law exists. Some cases similar to those cited have been found to conform with

<sup>4</sup> COCKS, R. S., The flora of the Gulf biologic station. Baton Rouge: La. State Board of Agric. and Immigration, Bulletin 7, pp. 42. 1907.

<sup>5</sup> ENGLER, A. Das Pflanzenreich. Heft 29. Erythroxylaceae von O. E. SCHULZ. pp. 176. figs. 32 (297). Leipzig: Wilhelm Engelmann. 1907. M 8.80.

<sup>6</sup> COULTER, STANLEY, and DORNER, HERMAN B., A key to the genera of the native forest trees and shrubs of Indiana. pp. 24. Lafayette: The Authors. 1907. 20 cents.

<sup>7</sup> DAVENPORT, C. B., Heredity and Mendel's law. Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci. 9:179-188. 1907.